

Applicant: Wieth et al.
Application No.: Not Yet Known

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Concl
28. (Amended) A system according to claim 23, wherein the second optical signal transmitter (18) comprises of a light signal (19) that is modulated according to the normal lighting of the collection point (6).

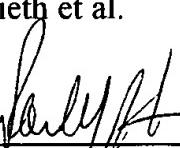
REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are currently pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have removed the multiple dependencies from the claims. A marked-up version of the claims showing these amendments is also attached. No new matter has been introduced into the application by this amendment.

Prompt examination of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Wieth et al.

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS UNDER 37 CFR §1.121

4. (Amended) A process according to [one of] claim[s] 2 [or 3], further comprising

only generating the second signal B when the shopping cart had been previously used to go shopping.

6. (Amended) A method according to [one of] claim[s] 1 [through 4], wherein the customer is individualized using optical recognition systems.

8. (Amended) A method according to [one of] claim[s] 1 [through 4], further comprising

issuing the information medium for the first signal A to the customer when paying at the shopping center and recording the second signal B on it, when returning a shopping cart whereby the customer receives a bonus when returning the information medium with the recorded second signal B.

9. (Amended) A method according to [one of] claim[s] 1 [through 4], further comprising

issuing the information medium to the customer when he drives into the customer parking lot of the shopping center, recording the first signal A when he pays at the shopping center, and recording the second signal B when he returns a shopping cart, and the customer receiving a bonus when returning the information medium when he leaves the customer

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parking lot if the first signal A and the second signal B are recorded on the information medium.

10. (Amended) A method according to [one of] claim[s] 1 [through 4 or 6 through 7], wherein

the signals A and B are saved on a customer-owned data medium.

13. (Amended) A method according to [one of] claim[s] 10 [through 12], wherein

signals A and B are saved on the customer-owned data medium with codes or addressing specific to the shopping center.

14. (Amended) A method according to [one of] claim[s] 10 [through 13], wherein

signals A and B are also saved in the shopping center.

15. (Amended) A method according to [one of] claim[s] 1 [through 14], wherein signal A contains, in addition to information that a purchase was made, data on the scope, the makeup and/or the time point of the purchase, and the bonus to be given out to the customer is determined in relation to such data.

16. (Amended) A system for detecting and rewarding the returning of shopping carts to a collection point [to carry out the method according to one of claims 1 through 15],

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comprising first detection means (5) to generate a first signal A during the purchase and second detection means (7) to generate a second signal B when a shopping cart (1) is returned to a collection point (6), and a data processing unit to correlate the two signals A and B to issue a bonus,

the first detection means (5) is for identifying or individualizing a particular customer or an information medium carried by him when generating the first signal A.

17. (Amended) A system to carry out the process according to [one of] claim[s] 1 [through 5], comprising first detection means (5) for generating a first signal A during the purchase and second detection means (7) for generating a second signal B when a shopping cart (1) is returned to a collection point (6), and a data processing unit to correlate the two signals A and B to issue a bonus, wherein

an information medium is provided to be carried by a particular customer to save the first signal A until it is correlated with the second signal B.

20. (Amended) A system according to claim 16 [and/or 17], wherein
the information medium is a data medium in the permanent possession of the customer.

21. (Amended) A system according to claim 16 [and/or 17], wherein
the information medium is a customer-owned mobile telecommunication means, in particular a mobile phone (13).

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22. (Amended) A system according to claim 16 [and/or 17], wherein the second detection means (18) further includes means for recognizing whether the returned shopping cart (1) has been stored into the shopping cart stacked row provided at the collection point (6) within a prescribed tolerance.

26. (Amended) A system according to [one of] claim[s] 23 [through 25], wherein at least one of the first and/the second optical signal transmitter (15, 18) are made up of IR light sources.

27. (Amended) A system according to [one of] claim[s] 23 [through 25], wherein the first optical signal transmitter (15) comprises a light signal (16) that is modulated according to normal lighting of the shopping center.

28. (Amended) A system according to [one of] claim[s] 23 [through 25 or 27], wherein the second optical signal transmitter (18) comprises a light signal (19) that is modulated according to the normal lighting of the collection point (6).